

The True Northerner.

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LITTLE SOLDIER KEPT PONY TO WHICH HE WAS ATTACHED

WAR'S strong appeal to boys lies in the promise of excitement that it offers. It has been said that the Civil conflict was largely a boys' war. Three in every ten soldiers on the Union side were under twenty-one years of age, and the percentage was greater in the South. Although the minimum age of enlistment was eighteen, this regulation was in many instances evaded. There is plenty of testimony to show that boys were among the best and bravest.

One of the most noteworthy was little "Gle" Van Zandt, who, at Port William, O., in the summer of 1862, volunteered to drum for a recruiting officer at a soldiers' meeting in an old schoolhouse. In August of that year he enlisted as a drummer in Company B, in the Seventy-ninth Ohio regiment, being at that time ten years, seven months and eleven days old. He drummed in the regimental band, as well as in the field, and became the pet and pride of the regiment.

There was no better soldier in Sherman's army. As a dispatch carrier he served through all the ruthless "march to the sea." An officer said to him that, being so young, he "did not possess the discretion of older heads, and consequently, when carrying a message, usually took the most direct route."

When mustered out, in 1865, he was thirteen years and six months old. Being told that he must give up his pony—an animal captured at Milledgeville, Ga., and which he had long ridden as a dispatch carrier—he was greatly distressed and went to see President Johnson about the matter. "My son," said the president, "what do you want? A brevet, I suppose?"

"No, it is not that," replied the boy. "It is my dear pony. I have brought him all through the campaign and now he is to be taken away from me."

"You shall keep him," said the president, and signed an order to that effect.

MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES TO COMMENCE NEXT SUNDAY.

The Memorial day exercises for Paw Paw will commence next Sunday. Brodhead post G. A. R. will assemble at Memorial hall at 10:30 A. M. and accompanied by the ladies of the W. R. C. and escorted by Company 10 of the Michigan State Troops will proceed to the M. E. church where divine services will be conducted by Rev. A. O. Carman. Members of Company 10 will assemble at the Racket store at 10:30 A. M.

On Wednesday Memorial day, the Post will assemble at Memorial hall at 9:00 A. M. and accompanied by the W. R. C., Firemen, school children and citizens generally, will proceed to the water works where the usual services in commemoration of our Naval heroes will be conducted by the W. R. C. Company 10 of the Home Guards will act as escort to the Post, and will assemble at the Racket store at 9:00 A. M.

After the exercises at the Water works, the line will proceed to Prospect cemetery, where the usual ceremonies will be held at the grave of comrade Edson Woodman.

At 1:30 P. M. the Post will again assemble at Memorial hall and march to the Opera House where an appropriate program will be rendered. Rev. E. W. Smith of the Presbyterian church will be the orator of the afternoon.

The citizens of Paw Paw and vicinity are requested to furnish, as liberally as possible, flowers for use on Memorial day and leave them at Memorial hall not later than 8:30 A. M. May 30th. Those having automobiles are requested to have them at the Water Works at 10:00 A. M. for the purpose of conveying the members of the Post and Relief Corps to and from the Cemetery.

Prof. Bailey of Kalamazoo gave a talk before the schools on Wednesday. This is in accordance with the proclamation of the President with the ultimate object of having the largest enrollment in the schools of the land next year in the history of the country. Even the pupils must do their "bit" in this war, and it is not improbable that pupils in the high school will play an important part before the conflict ends.

R. W. Broughton, H. A. Sherman and M. H. Young were in Lansing this week to attend the annual session of the Grand Lodge F. and A. M.

CAPTAIN BLICKLE MUSTERED IN PAW PAW HOME GUARD CO.

The Paw Paw Home Guards were mustered into the State service last Friday night, and the official title now is Company 10 of the Michigan State troops. Captain George C. Blicke of Grand Rapids, former adjutant of the Thirty-second Michigan infantry was mustering officer. The boys were drawn up in company front, and inspected by Captain Blicke and then sworn into the service. The Captain gave a short talk to the boys, explaining the importance of enlistment and something of what is expected of the company. Several were rejected on account of being below the minimum age of eighteen. Forty-three were mustered in. Several who had signed applications were unable to be present, and some others had a change of heart and did not appear. It is hoped that there may be other applications in the near future to bring the company at least up to the required number of fifty. There is no reason why there should not be from seventy-five to one hundred members in this company. Captain Blicke, while a stern army official, is a pleasant and courteous man to meet, and made a splendid impression on the boys. He has been in army circles twenty-four years, and enlisted when eighteen years of age. Any one in Paw Paw or vicinity who desire to show their colors and join this company should make application to Captain McKinstry or Lieutenant Frank Miller.

BILL KILLEFER GREATEST BACK STOP IN THE GAME.

Bill Killefer is the mainstay in the Philadelphia Nationals, and the greatest backstop in the game today according to the sport writers and critics of Philadelphia. In a recent issue of a Philadelphia paper a double column was devoted to this star player, our own Bill, and one of the most glowing tributes paid to him that any player ever received. "Few realize," says the writer, "that it is Killefer's brain and his arm that is turning back the foe." Killefer has been doing wonderful work this year. Very few bases are stolen off him, and opposing players hug the bases closely for fear of snappy accurate throws. He goes after everything and fields his position as no one else can. His aggressive spirit, his judgment in handling pitchers, his nerve in tight places and his quick accurate diagnosis of a play makes him the most valuable man on the team. The writer in question gives Killefer the honor of being the greatest catcher in the business today. The base ball fans of Paw Paw are proud of Bill and only regret that they cannot see him in action.

REGISTRATION DAY JUNE 5 WILL BE GREAT HOLIDAY.

Tuesday June 5th, will be National registration day in accordance with the new conscription law, and the President's proclamation. It is planned to make the day a holiday all over the land. Whistles will be blown and bells rung at the hour of opening registration places in the morning and at intervals throughout the day. Bands will play, and all military organizations will parade and drill. Every man who has passed his 21st birthday on that day, and has not yet reached his 31st, birthday must register. There can be no deviation and no excuses. The law makes it mandatory, with heavy penalties for neglect of duty. The registration places for Paw Paw will be at the Opera house and will be in charge of Sheriff Beattie and Supervisor Smith. All registration blanks have been distributed and everything is in readiness. The holiday features of the day have not yet been completed but will be announced in full in these columns next week. In the meantime don't forget the day. Within a few days after registration, it is probable the first draft for army service will be made, and soon our Paw Paw boys will be a part of the great army to be raised and on their way to the training camp.

Sheriff Beattie and County Clerk Royal Decker have closed a deal for a large Pickle factory at Covert. This is one of the best pickle centers in the state. There are two factories there, both with good acreage and a lucrative business. The new proprietors are two of Paw Paw's best and most enterprising young men and will make a success of the business which should mean much to them in later years.

"Just Us Few"



Just us few, boys in blue,
Gathered together today,
Where comrades sleep and women weep,
Scattering flowers of May.
Just us few, boys in blue,
Old boys in blue and gray,
Thinking of days, when Sumter ablaze,
We marched to the war away.

— "Capt. Jack" Crawford

Memorial Day Proclamation

By the Governor

Well-nigh three score years have passed since our fathers took up arms for the cause of the Union. That was a righteous war, a holy war. It was waged for unity and liberty and human happiness. Four years the conflict raged. Then came the end, and the Union was saved and the slaves were set free. Some of those who fought in that war are with us yet, though a fast diminishing company. Year by year their ranks now grow thinner. One by one their comrades leave them.

For many years our people have gone forth on Memorial day to place flowers on the graves of those veterans of the great Civil War who have gone beyond, and to pay a tribute of respect to those who still remain. It is a beautiful custom. May the time never come when it shall die out. May this generation, and the generations yet to come, never forget what they owe to the brave men who fought their battles for them.

This year Memorial day has an especial significance. With most of us, up to this time, the observance of the day has been more or less perfunctory. We have scarcely realized its meaning. Today that meaning is brought home to us through the grim reality of war. The world at war! Three years ago we scoffed at the suggestion. It could not be. The thing was unthinkable; but the impossible happened. The great powers across the sea came to death-grips. Men's hearts melted within them. In Europe a deep seated earth quake seemed to heave up the basis of civil life, and the tribunals of men, and the thrones of monarchs, and the temples of God were shaken to the lowest atom of their structure. Still we hoped that our own land would fare free. Neutral we would remain, and go calmly about our peaceful pursuits. It was not to be. The menace to human freedom became too frightful; and today we are at war. Our sons are being drafted. Our daughters are enlisting under the Red Cross banner. From ocean to ocean the nation is girding up its loins for the fray.

This too is a righteous war. We did not want war. We did our best to keep out of war; but there was no escape from the situation. The rights of the neutrals were being contemptuously disregarded. The freedom of the seas was being denied us. American citizens were being slaughtered

Albert E. Sleeper

Governor.

Coleman C. Vaughan
Secretary of State.

SPACIOUS WOODMAN HOME BURNED TO THE GROUND.

The beautiful Woodman residence just east of the village burned to the ground Wednesday. The origin of the fire is not known. The family, which consists of Mrs. Olivia Woodman, her sister Mrs. McLaren and brother Dudley Carpenter were just ready to sit down to dinner, when the flames were discovered in the upper part of the kitchen. The alarm was given and the fire department was on the scene with its usual promptness. They fought valiantly, but the odds were against them with the strong wind blowing and long distance from the hydrant, and the blaze gradually gained on them until they saw it was of no use. They succeeded however in saving the barn buildings. Neighbors and citizens from the village carried out the furnishings and practically everything in the house was saved. The family have moved into the residence formerly owned by E. S. Briggs on Territorial street.

The "wing" part of the house was built by Hon. J. J. Woodman about sixty years ago, and the large upright part about ten years later. It was a large spacious building, and in its day one of the most magnificent in the country. It seems almost a crime to see such a structure go up in smoke. Some insurance was carried but only a small fraction of what the building was actually worth. Mrs. Woodman feels the loss keenly, and much sympathy is expressed for this venerable lady who can ill afford the loss.

FIELD DAY COMES FRIDAY JUNE 1st. AT SOUTH HAVEN.

The Van Buren County High School Field Meet will be held this year at South Haven on Friday, June 1st. The South Haven people are arranging a new field located near one of their ward buildings, and all will be in readiness for the event on the date set. Efforts are being made to have the Fruit Belt run a special train west in the morning and back in the evening for the benefit of those from the southern and eastern part of the county.

The track meet will be held in the forenoon beginning at 9:30, and the base ball game in the afternoon at 2:00. All events will be held in the new Ratcliffe Field. The baseball game to determine the championship of the county is always one of the interesting and attractive events of the day.

The County Eighth Grade Commencement will be held in the forenoon of the same day at the High school building there.

LEN SHEPARD SURPRISED ON HIS 23rd. BIRTHDAY.

Mrs. L. E. Shepard perpetrated a surprise on her husband last Sunday and invited Tom Woodman and family a sister Mrs. Mary DeLaVeigne of Ovid, Michigan, and a niece Mr. and Mrs. Grover Green and children of Marshall in last Sunday to help celebrate his twenty-third birthday. There are some who may claim that Len is considerably more than twenty-three years of age, but those who know him well, and have been out with him can vouch for his age, and certify that he was not a day more than twenty-three last Sunday. Furthermore his friends, among which The True Northerner always hopes to be numbered, are hoping that the genial Len may live to be a hundred, and that every birthday may be as pleasant as his twenty-third.

MOVIE HOUSE ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE COUNTRY.

Paw Paw's popular Movie House is now located in the original Idle Hour theatre on Main street. The walls of the building have been newly decorated, a new lighting system installed, and the floors elevated so that those in the rear seats have just as good a view of the screen as those in front. This little theatre will now compare favorably with any Movie house in the cities. The new proprietors are putting forth every effort to give the Paw Paw patrons a high class entertainment at a moderate price. The patronage is increasing every night, which is very gratifying to the manager. If you are not already a patron of the Idle Hour, you should be. You will be surprised at the class of features shown.

Miss Mildred Shepard is a guest of Allegan friends this week.

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG NOT UNDER GUIDANCE OF MORTAL BRAIN

THE question of what man lost the day at Gettysburg for the Confederacy and won it for the Northern forces will probably never be settled. O. Henry probably came as near its solution as anybody ever will when in the greatest short story in English he said "If Longstreet only had."

The question, long a matter of argument, was brought to the surface of the news for a minute by the death in Pennsylvania of Gen. David M. Gregg, the last of the Union officers who bore the rank of general at the greatest battle of the war.

The Union forces were strung out from Little Round Top over to Culp's hill. This latter position was to the right of the line. Beyond this, or, in fact, to the extreme right of the engagement, General Gregg was stationed in command of 10,000 cavalrymen.

The Union wagon train lay to the rear of the center of the line, which was exactly back of the famed "high-water mark." This train had been from the beginning of the engagement the objective point of the Confederates. With its capture victory for the Northern soldiers would have been doubtful. Thereupon General Stuart made an effort to get to the rear of the Union line to destroy the train. He made his charge around the right wing, when he was met by General Gregg, and, following a fierce engagement, General Stuart was forced to retire defeated.

This would make Stuart "the man who failed." But as a matter of fact no one failed in that great conflict. It was for the good of all that Lee should see defeat, that the charge of the valiant Pickett should fail, and that the high tide of the Confederacy should begin its recession on that bloodiest of days. General Gregg, no doubt, did his part, but it was the omniscience of a God who foresaw the future that guided the events at Gettysburg.

UNIFORMS FOR THE HOME GUARD MICH. STATE TROOPS.

Lansing, May 28.—A uniform which is distinctive and military has been prescribed for the Michigan State Troops, Home Guard department. It does not conflict with the provisions of the law against unauthorized use of the uniforms of the army. It consists of a gray campaign hat, peaked; an olive drab cotton blouse, which differs from the regulation blouse as it has no upper pockets and does not have two Norfolk pleats running from front to back over the shoulders olive drab cotton riding breeches, laced at the knee, with side pockets and no hip pockets; canvas leggings; and russet army shoes. All buttons will be dull bronze and will bear the seal of the state.

The orders have been issued for the above from the office of the commander of the Home Guard, who also announces that rifles are not available at the present. He has appealed to the government for Krag rifles and has been refused, as the Krags are held for an emergency. It is promised that full information will be sent Home Guard companies of legislation pending in Congress to equip companies with rifles.

Home Guardsmen are advised to borrow sporting rifles or to have the communities buy them. They are warned not to get high power rifles, which are dangerous for city use because of the great velocity of the ammunition. "Get rifles using lead bullets with black powder," advises the circular.

The names of Michigan houses supplying uniforms and shoes are given in the circular. A number of the Home Guard companies are preparing to buy uniforms, arms and equipment.

TWO MORE OF PAW PAW'S BEST BOYS OFF FOR WAR.

Two other Paw Paw boys have showed the stuff of which they are made and joined the army. Leland Aseltine and Raymond Haworth. Leland leaves a position as principal of the Charlevoix schools, where he was offered a substantial raise for next year, to enter the training camp at Fort Sheridan, and Raymond enlists in the regular army and is now with his company at the concentration camp in Texas. He was in the civil service as railway mail carrier. Their parents of course feel sad to see them go, and yet they cannot help but feel proud of their boys who have shown such patriotism and loyalty to their country.